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Yugoslavia

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Public Opinion on Tito-Cominform Conflict

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1. The Yugoslav people are neither in favor of Tito nor of the Soviets.

[redacted] the people would support Tito in the event of conflict, in the hope that once the Soviet danger has been eliminated Tito would be drawn completely to the western democracies and thereupon have to give up his dictatorship in favor of free elections. Civil war under the leadership of Cominform sympathizers is not likely to occur despite the fact that half of the Yugoslav Communists are for Tito and the other half pro-Cominform. In the event of strife, Tito would have the aid of the people in any action taken against the Cominformists.

2. Pro-Tito elements in Yugoslavia believe the Tito-Cominform conflict will only last a few more months. They state that the Soviets will attempt infiltration into Yugoslavian, Hungarian, Rumanian, Bulgarian and international Communist groups to weaken the morale of Tito's regime and generally create chaos and sabotage. The Soviets will thereupon attack Belgrade with the united cooperation of Hungary, Rumania and northern Bulgaria. After Belgrade's fall, the new government would demand the retention of Soviet troops to maintain order. Thus, a Communist regime, agreeable to the Soviet Union, would again be installed in Yugoslavia.

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